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The CURRENT

Issue 757

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

March 15, 1993

University Spends \$54,000 On Cars For UM President, UM-Columbia Chancellor

by Krista GoodIn
associate news editor

The University of Missouri recently spent approximately \$54,000 on two 1993 Buick Park Avenue Ultra Cars for UM President George Russell and UM-Columbia Chancellor Charles Kiesler.

"About \$26,000 was spent on Russell's car," said Maurice Manning, manager of media relations at UM-Columbia.

The university serves at the pleasure of the Board of Curators. He has no contract, Manning explained. When he was hired, Russell was given the choice between using his personal vehicle or driving a university vehicle. If he chose to drive his own car, he would be compensated for mileage and depreciation.

Initially, Russell used his own car, Manning said.

Kiesler, on the other hand, serves at the pleasure of the president. Kiesler also has no contract, only an agreement with Russell. His terms of employment included the same option, reimbursement or a university vehicle.

"All chancellors are offered this

[choice]," Manning said.

"The car is part of the original compensation package when he was hired," said Ken Brogdon, director of the news bureau at UM-Columbia.

Manning said the apparent logic in purchasing the cars is that it saves the university money. There are two types of compensation, he said. One type

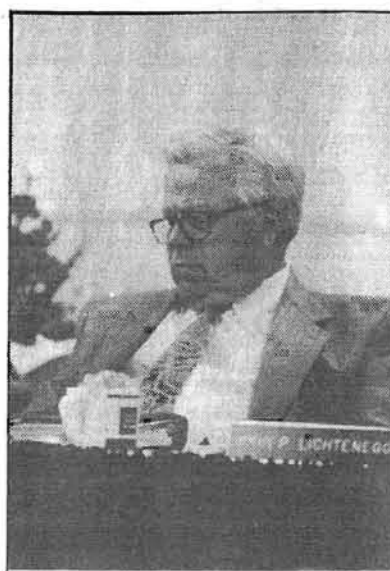
pays strictly per mile, 26 cents. The other pays for mileage and depreciation. The actual value of the car is assessed according to the mileage accrued.

Russell and Kiesler drive between 18 and 25 thousand miles per year in university business.

Over a three-year period, the university ends up paying for those cars through mileage compensation, but never owns them. By buying the Buicks, the university will pay over the same time period, but at the end of that term, they will be university collateral.

"The money [to purchase the cars] came from the unrestricted gift money," Manning said. "These are funds donated by those who support the University of Missouri System. They give it and say 'We know you have expenses. Use it as you please.'"

Most gifts to the university are



George Russell

restricted, Manning said. They are donated specifically for buildings or scholarships, for example.

Special features in Kiesler's car include a fold-out table in the back seat and two cellular phones.

"He wants to be able to work in the vehicle," explained Brogdon.

"Kiesler's job takes him all over the state," Manning said.

Manning dispelled the rumor that Russell's car also included special features.

"It does not have a sunroof or a compact disc player," Manning said. "But it does have a cellular phone."

Students and administrators are not the only ones concerned about the purchase of the Buicks.

"We're upset about it," said Neil Molloy, state representative for the 71st district. "I thought their timing was bad, when tuitions are going up so rapidly."

Molloy is also a member of the



Charles Kiesler

state house appropriations committee. He said the committee designates money to the university in a lump sum and has no control over how it is spent.

"Last year we appropriated \$289 million in general revenue," Molloy said. "This year [the amount] will be \$296 million, but it's still in committee."

Molloy said the committee "grilled Russell for 40 minutes."

"We can't take action," he said. "The only state official is the Board of Curators because they govern the University of Missouri System. They're a constitutional body."

In contrast to the Park Avenue Ultra Cars, UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche Touhill drives a 1988 Ford Taurus provided by the university. Bob Samples, director of communications for UM-St. Louis, said the car was purchased for former Chancellor Mar-

See CARS, page 4

Chem Lab Computers Center Of Controversy

by Clint Zweifel
Current news reporter

Some students at UM-St. Louis feel their student computing fees are not being put to use.

Pat Chernovitz, a resident assistant in the department of chemistry, is circulating a petition to the departments of chemistry, psychology, biology and physics to be sent to UM-St. Louis Chancellor Blanche Touhill. The petition complains of inadequate computer facilities in the Benton Hall computer lab located in Room 207.

Chernovitz has specific complaints about the computer laboratory. She said the doors to the laboratory are locked on weekends making it inaccessible to students who have weekend classes.

Michael Underwood, a research assistant in the chemistry department, complained that students are unable to load programs onto the hard disk that are appropriate to their needs in chemistry.

Underwood said, "We are not capable of loading software onto the hard drive. We were capable up until December but Mr. Siegel (Director of Campus Computing) has taken that away."

Siegel said there is reason why he had taken away privileges to load software onto the harddrive.

He said, "I am responsible legally for the fact that every software package that is installed on our systems is actually owned by UM-St. Louis and we have a license for it."

Siegel said that software vendors could raid the laboratory. If unlicensed software is found, UM-St. Louis could be fined.

He said if a student will bring him a bill of sale for a particular piece of software, he will install it.

Chernovitz said it was decided in May 1991 that Room 207 in Benton Hall was going to be renovated and a computer laboratory was going to be installed.

She said, "It was decided that there was to be ten IBM, ten Macintosh and three postscript printers. All of the departments agreed on that and all departments decided what programs they want on [the computers]."

According to Chernovitz, it was then decided by Jerrold Siegel in Jan. 1992 that renovation would not occur. Instead there will be four IBM computers, four Macintosh computers and one postscript printer put in the room.

According to Siegel, lack of space was not taken into account when the renovation was discussed. Because of the lack of space, fewer computers had to be installed in the room.

Siegel said the problem should be in the hands of the chemistry department.

See CHEMISTRY, page 4

Senate Considers New Grading Scale

by Thomas J. Kovach
Current news reporter

If you're one of those students who always gets a 79 or 89 percent as a semester grade and still gets a C or B letter grade respectively, UM-St. Louis may have a plan that might help you.

The College of Arts and Sciences is proposing a plus/minus system for grading. Backers of the proposal say it gives students a more accurate "reading of how they really do in class."

"If a student get a B+, he or she would know that were a lot closer to an A grade than a B grade," said Deborah Larson, arts and sciences associate dean.

Here's how the plus/minus plan affects grade-point averages:

- A-, 3.7
- B+, 3.3
- B-, 2.7
- C+, 2.3
- C-, 1.7

- D+, 1.3
- D-, 0.7

For straight letter grades, grade-point averages would remain the same, Larson said.

Presently, the plan calls for faculty members to have the option of implementing the plus/minus system in their classes.

Faculty and staff from each department on campus are expected to meet this week with their deans to discuss the impact of the plan.

Informal discussions have held since the plan was presented at University Senate March 2. All departments must respond to the Arts and Sciences proposal by March 22.

Department's comments will be forwarded to the Curriculum and Instruction committee. They will present their findings at the next Senate meeting on April 6 at 3:15 p.m. in 222 J.C. Penney.

Delta Sigma Pi Promotes Safe Spring Break

by Krista GoodIn
associate news editor

Delta Sigma Pi, the professional business fraternity on campus, wanted everyone to have a "Safe Spring Break." Fraternity members handed out survival kits containing AIDS prevention information and a condom March 1 and 2.

The project was called the "Safe Spring Break Campaign," and more than 650 kits were handed out.

"Because we're greek and on campus, we realize we have a social responsibility," said Pete Manzo, social chairman and project coordinator. He explained that the fraternity was doing a community service and educating the campus.

"Our fraternity adapts to the times,"

Manzo said.

The survival kits were prepared and provided by St. Louis Effort for AIDS through its campus outreach program. Each contained three pieces of paper explaining safe sex practices, healthy sexual boundaries and how to use a condom.

"A lot of people found the wording pretty blunt," Manzo said. He explained that the information is distributed to many people and the wording must be plain enough for everyone to understand, even those not as educated as college students.

In addition to the survival kits, pamphlets were available. All of the literature included an information hotline for callers to ask questions

See AIDS, page 4



Photo: Dave Floyd

Delta Sigma Pi, the business fraternity at UM-St. Louis, distributed "survival kits" with information on AIDS prevention and safe sex.

Bearly Survived Spring Break?

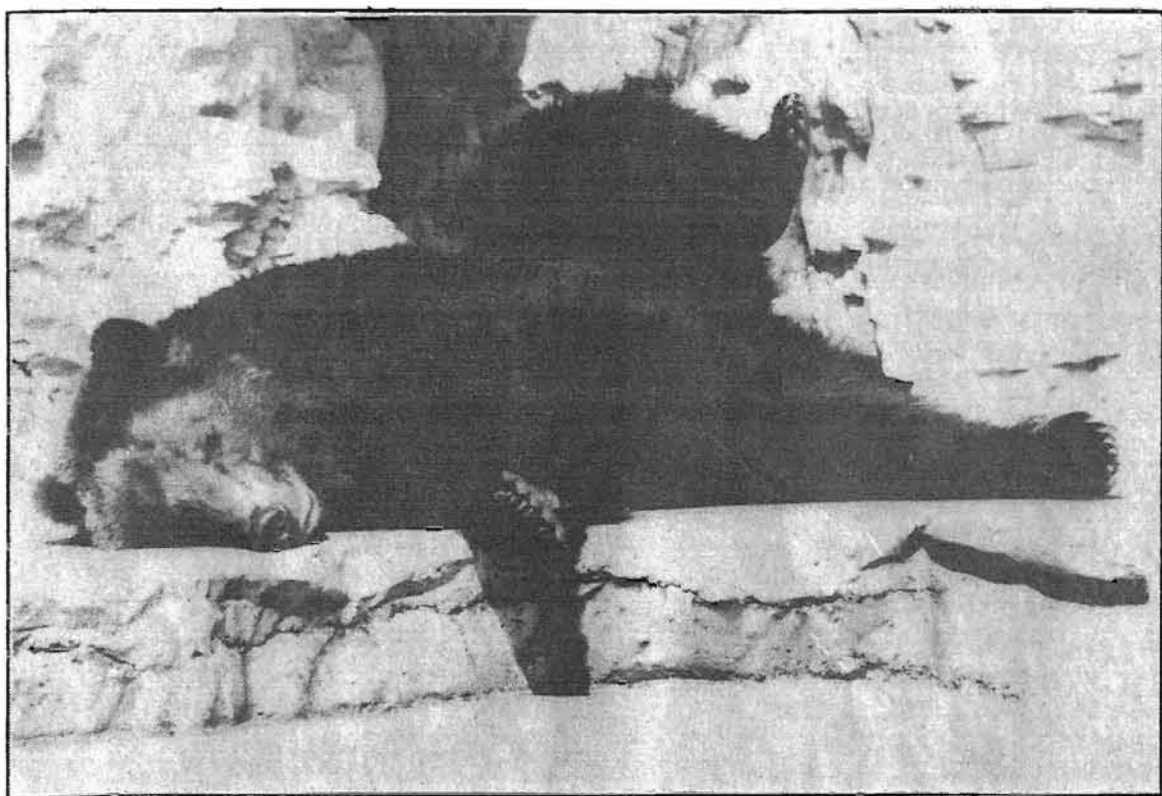


Photo: Alfie M. Ali

UM-St. Louis students weren't the only ones a little exhausted after spring break.

Masters, Roither Only Candidates For SGA President, Vice-President

by Amy Allman
Current news reporter

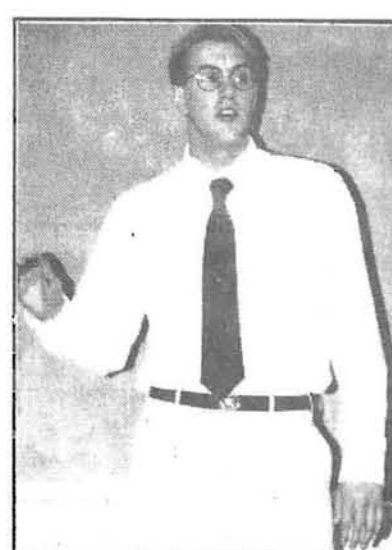
The Student Government Association (SGA) met Wednesday to discuss proposals and to hear speeches from the candidates for SGA president and vice-president for the 1993-94 academic year.

Charles Andrew "Andy" Masters, the current SGA treasurer, started the introduction session with a speech concerning his campaign for SGA president. Masters said while serving as SGA treasurer, he played a key role in all phases of student government. Masters spoke about his involvement in the task of battling the administration over the increase in student activity fees.

"The very same issue is going to come up next year, so it is important to have someone who knows what's going on, who will know how to fight it and who will fight it," said Masters. He said, "You can rest assured that



Andy Masters



Dave Roither

if I'm elected I'm going to fight it all the way."

Masters also spoke of his achievements at the leadership level and his future ideas for the student government. He elaborated on his plans for

campus beautification, security improvement and recruitment of students.

The meeting proceeded with a brief speech from Dave Roither, the SGA

See SGA, page 4

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Tuesday, Mar. 16, 1993
1:30 p.m. • 72 J.C. Penney

invites you to attend a

LECTURE

Prof. Eugen Weber

"Education for Whom? Culture for What?"

Weber is former Dean of the college of Letters and Sciences at UCLA and the host of the PBS series on Western Civilization. His lecture will be about the purpose and value of a Liberal Arts education in today's world.

Thursday, March 25, 1993
8 p.m. • 78 J.C. Penney

Bally's (R)



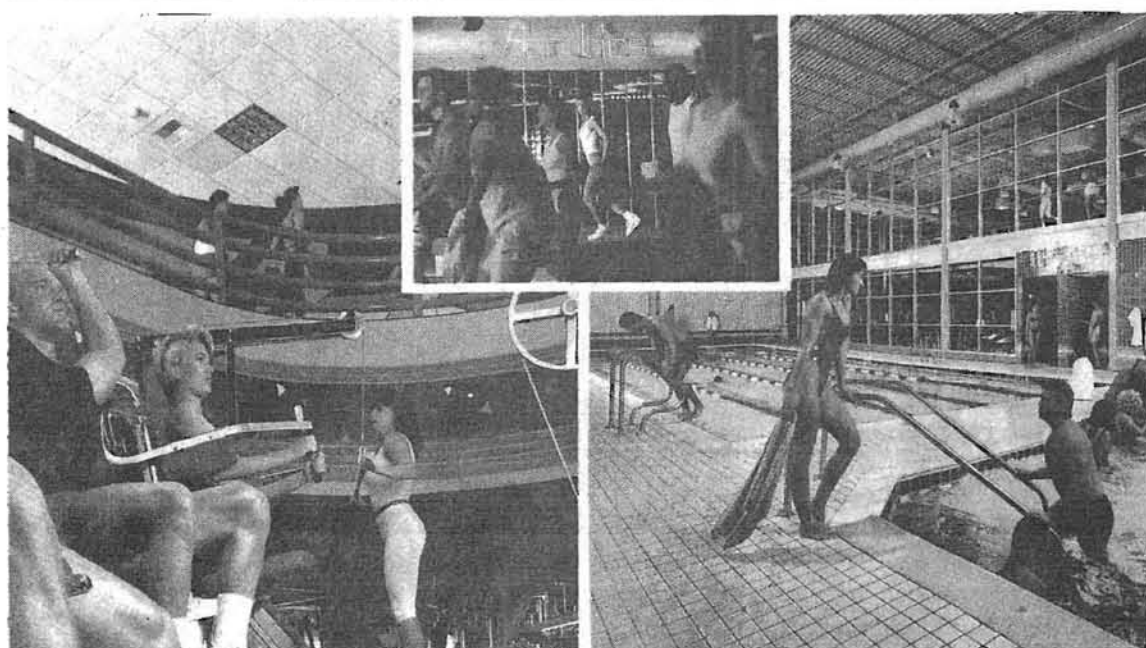
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Greeks Might Be Wrong, But Is Anyone Right?

With the recent stories about sorority and fraternity members allegedly engaging in the illegal distribution of continuing education parking stickers, anti-greek sentiment on the UM-St. Louis campus seems to be nearing an all-time high. Greeks have always been a source of misunderstanding among those not in a fraternity or sorority, and this misunderstanding often becomes mistrust. Not only are the greeks mistrusted by non-greeks, fraternities and sororities even mistrust each other.

On many university campuses throughout the country, the greeks and non-greeks are in a constant battle. The greeks claim that they benefit society through their philanthropies, and benefit their members through support and cooperation. Fraternities and sororities claim they provide acceptance and support for incoming freshmen and transfer students. They point to their contribution to the building of a campus community and pride in their school.

The non-greeks claim that fraternities and sororities are elitist, and often racist. They point out the disproportionate ratios of minority members in the sororities and fraternities compared to the student population as a whole. They claim that the fraternity parties and formals serve only as a guise for alcohol distribution to members who are minors. They call attention to the problems of date rape, alcohol abuse and hazing.

Fraternities and sororities even attack each other with accusations of underhanded statements made in bars at late hours implicating greek members in illegal activities. They claim that statements made by a rival house are not fact, but are meant strictly to "bring the house down." They steal signs, charters and composites from each other and refuse to return them. They destroy property and await retaliation, so they can return to vandalize again, with a vengeance.

Steps have been made to address these issues and problems within the greek community. The governing bodies of the fraternities and sororities have been active. Omicron Kappa Epsilon (OKE) and Panhellenic Association are working to reduce the problems involved with the coexistence of greek and university communities.

Panhellenic has been in existence on this campus for nine years. The three UM-St. Louis sororities in Panhellenic say that they participate in various activities to "encourage students to get involved on campus" and to provide a way "of improving academic, moral and social obligations of individual [members]." The sororities participate in a national event that allows them to attend seminars that "aid in promoting campus unity and involvement."

OKE, a new arrival to the UM-St. Louis campus this year, states in its constitution that the purpose of the organization is to "form a close union of social fraternities of the University, to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the fraternities and the University Administration and Faculty and to promote the interest and welfare common to both fraternities and the University." All three UM-St. Louis social fraternities are members of OKE.

Both groups claim to be striving for a more unified campus and cooperation between the six social greek organizations, yet there is still strife, both internal and external. Non-greeks still blame greeks for some problems. They still claim the greeks are elitist.

Non-greeks turn their noses up when they walk past the raised section in the Underground, the commonly known "land-of-the-greeks." When the greek reaction to an issue is to be found, all one has to do is step up onto the stage. Many think that the entire greek community can be found in the Underground, regardless of class schedules or time of day.

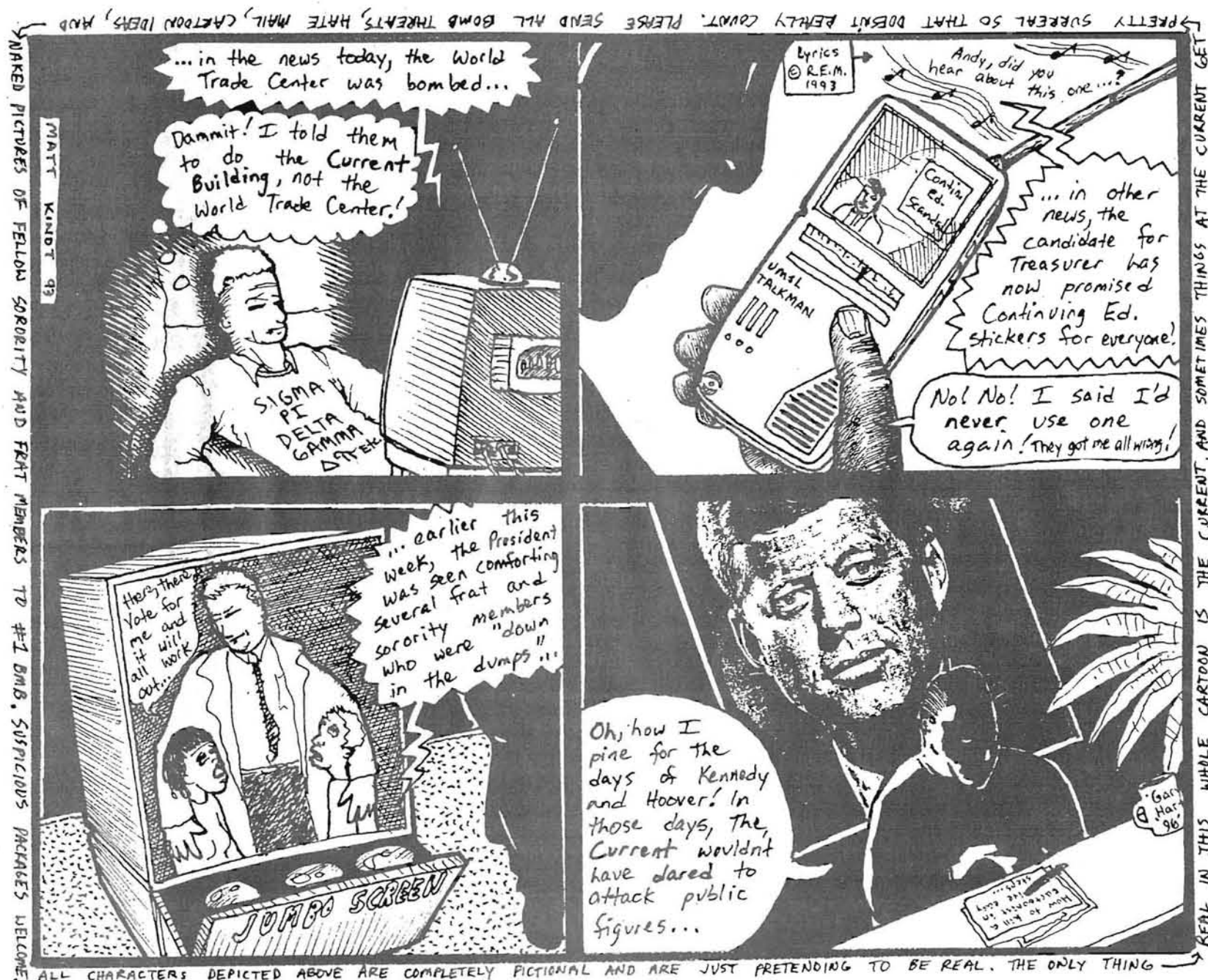
Greeks seem to have an air of superiority when sitting in the Underground. They seem to enjoy looking down on the non-greeks walking by. The looks given to a non-greek who tries to infringe upon their territory can be murderous.

Both sides could be making much larger strides toward peaceful coexistence. The greeks say that their membership is open to all students, but once a student joins, it is almost as if he or she has to surrender an identity as a regular student and assume the identity of the greek student, with appropriate allegiances implied.

Non-greeks are just as guilty of this discrimination based on association. All students are considered part of this larger whole, until they join a fraternity or sorority. These students become lepers in the eyes of the non-affiliated masses on campus.

The greek community has made the first steps, through the creation of Panhellenic, and now OKE. Is the student body going to make a similar step? Is the student body capable of a similar step? Even if able, would the student body want to abandon such a time-honored tradition of greek bashing, just for something as seemingly inconsequential as campus unity?

Et tu, campus?



ALL CHARACTERS DEPICTED ABOVE ARE COMPLETELY FICTIONAL AND ARE JUST PRETENDING TO BE REAL. THE ONLY THING REAL IN THIS WHOLE CARTOON IS THE CURRENT, AND SOMETIMES THINGS AT THE CURRENT GET

Continuing Education Parking Stories Handled Properly



by Russell Korando
managing editor

It's an enigma, wrapped in a mystery, tied up with a riddle. There are many guesses, and probably as many lies, to cover up the improprieties. The true culprit may never emerge.

It is the continuing education parking scandal that *The Current* swept across the campus two weeks ago. Rumor and innuendo have piled up

faster than the snowfall in the last two weeks of February concerning how these stickers found a way out of the continuing education office and onto the cars of several students.

Reputations of UM-St. Louis Student Government Association officials were jarred by their own admittance of guilt. Fraternities and sororities have played against each other in this unholy house of cards. *Current* staff members were threatened and harassed by cowardly, faceless intimidators over the phone.

Throughout *The Current's* month-long investigation into the parking sticker debacle, there was only one intention: find the truth. And if a person's name was going to be connected with this case, make damn sure there was sufficient, documented evidence to support such charges.

This newspaper's reputation has taken more beatings than a washed up prize-fighter. A lot of these beatings have been warranted, due to the mistakes of past editors.

What a large part of the campus community does not realize is that *The Current* is operated solely by students. Young, aspiring journalists here must walk a fine line, with no professional advice on a day-to-day basis.

The rumor mill has cranked reports back to this bureau indicating that greek members have accused us of false quoting and arm-twisting in attaining the material used for the continuing education stories.

First of all, a good tip or story can come at any place, at any time. This is not the kind of business where sensitive information is faxed back and forth during regular business hours. A good

story is where you find it. And, for some information, it doesn't matter if it's found in a bar at one o'clock in the morning.

If the greek community wants to take potshots at members of *The Current*, that's fine. We did our job, and we did it professionally. If we hadn't, I would be sitting in a lawyer's office and this column would be a public apology.

In the past, I have defended this paper's stance against charges of racial bias. Now, I feel it is my duty to defend it against the slanderous allegations by whiners who feel they know my job better than I do.

Many letters have been sent in the past few weeks. We're gettin' through to you. Keep them coming because opposing views are part of the essence of what makes a newspaper credible.

Gay Rights Movement Has Own Agenda

Dear Editor:

I applaud Christine McGraw for explaining the agenda behind the gay rights movement. Gay rights activists want more than tolerance, they are seeking to vindicate the homosexual lifestyle. In their efforts, they are challenging the legitimacy of the nuclear family. The books "Daddy's Roommate" and "Heather Has Two Mommies" show disregard for the importance of a child's mother and father. In doing so, they promote the break-up of families, a trend we don't

need any help in advancing.

Am I upset that a copy of "Daddy's Roommate" is available at the Barnes Education Library on the South Campus? No. In fact, I encourage any adult who wants to check it out to do so. Adults can critically judge material like this for themselves. Six-year-olds, on the other hand, lack this ability.

First graders should not be forced to accept these books and their attempts to legitimate the homosexual lifestyle. These books do not "plant seeds of harmony." Their message

tears into a child's understanding of the parent by contradicting the significance of the mother and father. Children's books depicting homosexual lifestyles do not improve society, they work against it.

If you watch 60 Minutes, you may remember the picture of a gay rights activist walking with his nine-year-old daughter. A few years back he divorced his wife and left his daughter to begin living with a gay man. A short time later he contracted the AIDS virus. At the time of the documentary, he was spending his remaining days

with his daughter. But at the same time, he was also chaining himself to the axles of pharmaceutical company's trucks and leading gay pride marches. You must believe me when I say that I was genuinely sympathetic when I saw the sight of this dying man walking with his daughter. My sympathy for him ended when I thought to myself: wait a minute, what about the child?

Matthew T. Godbee

Sexual Orientation Source of Misunderstanding

Dear Editor:

For the past several weeks I have been reading a variety of editorials and letters concerning sexual orientation that are deemed both alternative and contrary to heterosexual norms. The pros and cons range anywhere between the lunatic fringe to the ultra conservative right. As usual, the more accurate representation lies somewhere in the middle.

As a former counselor-in-training, under the supervision of a clinical psychologist, I was able to assist in therapy with several individuals who claimed that they did not choose their sexual orientation. None of them wished to cause discomfort and pain to parents, siblings, friends, spouses, and others based on the fact that they were sexually different when compared and contrasted to the mainstream society.

Some of these individuals sought out therapy to better cope with their respective dilemmas. Others wanted to change various patterns of behavior that were bringing themselves and others pain. Some were in need of self-esteem strategies. A few wanted the therapist to "make them straight."

The most common complaint usually rested with the premise that other people would or could not accept them. These reservations were sometimes founded in so called religious principles that had very little to do with spirituality.

Some individuals reacted violently to these clients and displayed a type of behavior that in psychological terms is often labeled "reaction formation." Recent news stories concerning gay bashing in the military might fall into this category.

The new political polarization gimmicks (ie: "Act Up," Queer Nation," etc...) have made people anxious. In some ways, these plays have made caricatures out of individuals. Needless to say, this is a subject that is highly charged with emotion.

Having witnessed misunderstandings on both sides of the fence, so to speak, I can only hope that we refrain from judging others. This is a recurring topic that is not going to go away.

Loren Richard Klahs

The Current

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Russell Korando
Managing Editor

Bill Farnsworth
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CHEMISTRY from page 1

He said, "We have not set up a departmental laboratory. This is really a general purpose facility. This is not a facility for the chemistry department."

Seigel said if the general service computer laboratories were specialized, less students would benefit.

He said, "The decision was made to serve the greater good, and that is to maximize the number of students who have access to the systems."

Lawrence Barton, Chairman of the Chemistry Department, said "The students have some problems getting the kinds of equipment and software up there that are conducive to the use by science students."

He said instead of a strict network system, each computer laboratory should focus on the needs of the students in a particular department or group of departments.

Seigel said many other departments such as business, nursing, education, economics and anthropology have their own separate computer laboratories that

cater to the special needs of the students in their particular department. He said a department such as chemistry should also provide their own computer laboratories to provide for the needs of chemistry students.

Seigel offered to turn the room over to Barton, giving the chemistry department full responsibility over the room, but Barton declined the offer.

Barton said it is important to realize that the psychology, biology, and physics departments are also involved (since those departments are located in Benton and Stadler Halls).

"Furthermore, it is not something that is our role appropriately," he said.

Barton said that communication among students, faculty and administration is the key to solving the dilemma.

He said, "The more communication there is, the more understanding there will be of this problem. If there is an understanding, those that have the authority will solve the problem."

Senate Election Results

Elections for student senators for the University Senate were held Wednesday, March 3, and Thursday, March 4. 25 student senators were elected to serve one-year terms.

The senators, listed with their majors and in the order they appeared on the ballot, are: Steven Young, criminal justice; Lisa DeLorenzo, political science; Chad Reidhead, English/anthropology; Angela Hornaday, accounting; William Ross, political science; Chris Delph, communications; James Penneys, psychology/criminal justice; Sara Wolff, political science/biology; Fredrick Ross, physical education;

Cheryl Stevenson, communications; David Roither, political science; Douglas Wilding, accounting/finance; Michael Jones, business/political science; M. Scot Fague, business/philosophy; Andy Masters, political science/communication; Jerry Riehl, Jr., chemistry; John Russell, history/English; Steven Wolfe, education; Carlo Sanfilippo, finance/German; Warren Price, marketing; Benjamin Ash, political science; Raymond Schmidt, III, history; Lisa Niswonger, history; Stephen Savis, business administration; and Sharon Hilliard, computer science.

AIDS from page 1

anonymously.

"We referred a lot of people to that number," Manzo said. "And some actually came back for more information."

The response to the project was positive.

"We received a lot of positive feedback," Manzo said. "I was really amazed, to tell you the truth."

One student said, "This is great - this information needs to be known."

Manzo said he didn't expect the positive response.

"We have a conservative campus," he said. "I expected trouble. I was afraid people would construe this as the

fraternity promoting sexual activity."

Manzo recalled one instance when a fraternity member asked two male students if they wanted survival kits.

"No," they said. "We're not like that."

An important point Delta Sigma Pi wanted to express is that "abstinence is the only 100 percent effective means of not getting pregnant or [contracting] AIDS."

Manzo said that even the faculty members in student activities took information for their kids.

"I think that if [the fraternity] got one person to be a little bit more careful, our campaign was a success."

Grin and Bear It!

Photo: Alfie M. Ali

Apparently, this grizzly thinks it is amusing that he doesn't have to return to classes today.

CARS from page 1

guerite Ross Barnett. The car was offered to her when she left the university, but she refused it.

Samples explained that the university goes through a bidding process in which specifications of need are determined and outside vendors bid.

"Blanche's car is probably more appropriate," said Molloy.

Other chancellors at the University of Missouri drive personal vehicles. Chancellor Eleanor Schwartz, at UMKC, drives her own 1986 Cadillac Eldorado. Chancellor John Park, at UMKC, also drives his own car, a 1989 Pontiac Bonneville SSE.

"I drive almost 16,000 miles between Rolla and Columbia a year," Park said. "I have never asked for a university vehicle and I was never offered one."

Washington University's chancel-

lor, William Danforth, also drives his own Oldsmobile.

"It is a university policy," said Fred Volkmann, vice chancellor for public affairs at Washington University. "There are no company cars."

President Daniel Perlman at Webster University said, "I drive my personal vehicle for personal use and a university vehicle for university-related activities." The 1990 Toyota Camry was part of the package when he was hired, Perlman said.

"A compensation committee decides on how much is spent and it's not very much," he said.

St. Louis University provides a 1991 Ford Grand Marquis for President Father Lawrence Biondi, said Betsy Martin, director of public relations.

SGA from page 1

vice-president, who is running for the same office on a ticket with Masters. He focused on his support for and dedication to Masters' ideas.

A motion was made for UM-St. Louis to take appropriate action for the installation of condom vending machines in selected restrooms on campus. The motion passed, and the issue will go to the administrative level.

The office of the SGA comptroller was introduced. The duties of the office include: serving as the student chair of the Student Activities Budget Committee, checking the accuracy of Activity Fee Acquisition Forms and presenting possible misuse of student allocated monies to the Senate Student Affairs Committee. The comptroller will be a student elected at large who will be considered a member of the Assembly, Executive Committee and Student Activities Budget Committee.

The meeting was adjourned with brief election guideline for the upcoming election and closing remarks.

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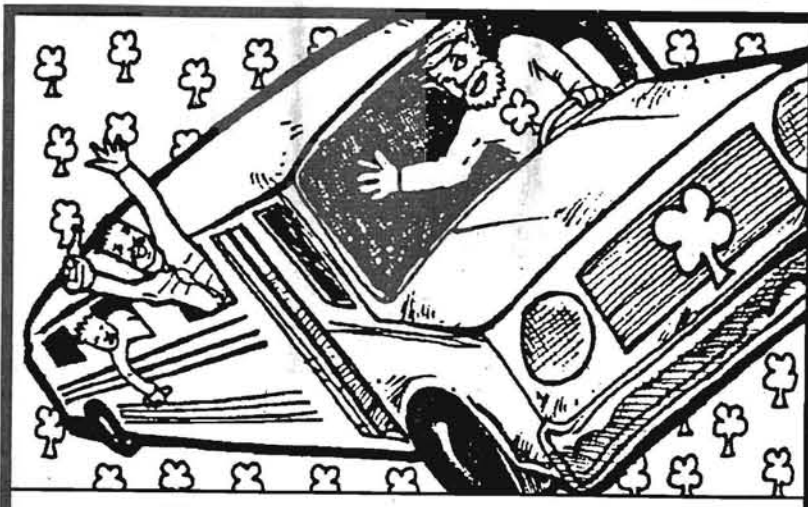
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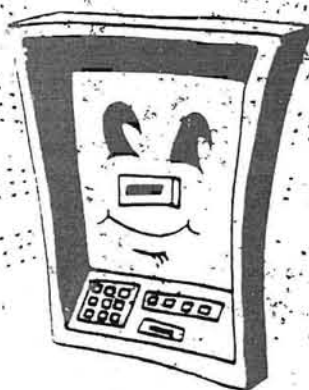
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"Save Your Vision" Month Saves Students Money

by Amy Weicht
Current features reporter

March has been designated "Save Your Vision Month," and UM-St. Louis students can receive an eye exam at the University Eye Center for only \$26.00.

The University Eye Center is located on South Campus in Marillac Hall. All university students receive a 20 percent discount on eye exams and a 10 percent discount on glasses and contacts. All you need is a valid student ID. The exams are performed by university optometry students and every diagnosis is double checked by a professional.

If you experience headaches, double or blurred vision, red, itchy or watery eyes, you should have your vision checked. Even if these symptoms are not there, an annual eye exam should be part of everyone's health care routine.

"Everyone needs to recall their last eye exam. If it's been over a year they need to come in for an exam," said Sandra Stroud, president of the American Optometric Student Association.



Current file photo

Denise Sacquin peers into the eyes of UM-St. Louis student Bill Richey. All diagnoses are checked by a professional.

The American Optometric Student Association is a way for optometry students to enhance their education while providing a valuable service to the community. To commemorate "Save Your Vision" month, the AOSA will be taking their services out on the road to local high schools to do free vision screenings.

According to Stroud, eye exams are important at any age, but parents with toddlers need to pay special attention because vision problems at this age are often dismissed as awkwardness. All you need to do to make an appointment is call 553-5131 or stop by 153 Marillac Hall. It's that easy, See!

Country Music Fan Impressed By Alternative Band, the choice

by Amy Weicht
Current features reporter

I've been a loyal country music listener for about five years now, so you can understand why I was a little apprehensive when someone suggested I do an article on the alternative band the choice. This was to be my first adventure into alternative music.

The band was kind enough to invite me to the record release for their new album *Fall*. I wasn't sure what I expected, but I was sure it was strange. I was shocked.

There are four members of the band,

two are former UM-St. Louis students, and each one has his own distinct style. Brad Booker is the drummer and was my first victim. My first impression was "Wow, this guy can put a full sentence together without using the word 'dude.'" Brad was a dolly and later he explained that he's really a yuppie at heart.

He gave me most of the information about the band, and as it turns out, they are all very educated guys. (I think I was learning a lesson in stereotyping here.) In fact, they all met through college and within two weeks had their first gig. Aunt Heidi's in Columbia, was the first to feature the choice.

After that, they put out their first album. Brad called it a "Lab Rat tape."

According to him, the band wanted to see if people would buy it. They did.

Then, using their own label, PLH (Peace, Love and Happiness), they produced *Fall* which is available at Streetside Records.

Brad then started telling me a little about himself. He's been playing the drums since he was in sixth grade. He said he loves the business, but there are drawbacks.

"No money, and it's hard to break ground in a new city," Brad said.

Kevin Gagnepain came over and introduced himself as the bass player. I jotted this down quickly and (just as quickly) Kevin

corrected my spelling of the word bass. I spelled it base. It was dark and I was in a hurry, give me a break. I later found out Kevin has a degree in journalism from Mizzou. Not only did he prove himself to be intelligent, but he's also a great guy. I asked him if the band had experi-

enced any groupies yet.

"We have no groupies, only friends," he replied.

But Kevin wasn't serious the whole time. When I asked where his music came from, he said, "It comes from my amp and starts with my bass." I made sure my spelling was correct this time.

Kevin took off and was now talking to "friends." I would call them groupies.

"We're borderline popular alternative, playable on the radio, but not liked by older people. We're not naked and we don't play violins."

**- Rick Smith
Lead Vocalist
for the choice**



Photo: Dave Floyd

Andy Schmidt, lead guitar for the choice, said that, if he could be any kind of food, he would be celery because "I like peanut butter."

So, Rick Smith, the voice of the choice, sat down. He's definitely the most surprising member of the band. Wearing a blazer, jeans and what appeared to be a cowboy hat, he was definitely not what I expected. Rick said he has a strong gospel background and two gospel albums out. Now I was really stunned. Rick gave me a great explanation of the band's music. Music that I still hadn't heard yet.

"We're borderline popular alternative, playable on the radio, but not liked by older people. We're not naked and we don't play violins," Rick said.

Finally, I talked to Andy Schmidt. Other than playing guitar, he writes most of the lyrics. He is the most quiet and soft-spoken of the group. But he, too, had a sense of humor. When asked how far he thought the band would go, he replied, "We're going to Tennessee next week." That's about all the information I got out of him at this point

because it was almost showtime.

I was right up front when the choice took stage. When they started playing I thought this couldn't be the same guys I just spent two hours talking to. I mean, they all sorta looked the same, with the exception of Rick. He traded his previous outfit for a sleeveless flannel shirt and very strange looking green pants. They all seemed so different. It was like the people I just met were gone and the music took over. I wasn't sure what I was listening to, but I liked it all the same.

There was a group of guys behind me who obviously liked it also. They were jumping up and down and running into each other. I later learned this is called "moshing."

I specifically listened for the band's title cut "Fall" which the members said was one of their favorites. I found myself moving with the music and even liking it. Again, I was shocked.

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St. Patrick Wasn't Even Irish?

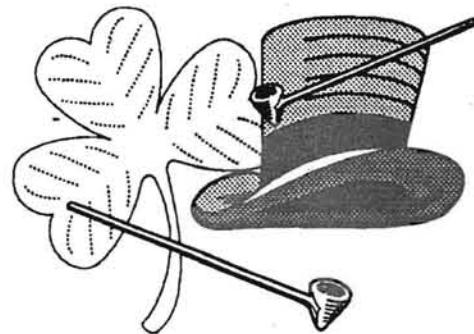
by Jamie Dunphy
for The Current

Yes, it's true! The almighty Patron St. Patrick who symbolizes Ireland, four-leaf clovers and everything green, was actually born in South Wales (Great Britain) around 385 A.D. His mother was British, and his father was a Roman soldier for the Imperial Roman Empire. Gee, I don't want America's second largest ethnic group to be hostile toward me, but wouldn't that make ol' St. Patrick half-British and half-Italian by ethnic descent? St. Patrick was an Italian?!?

Anyway, the legend goes that at the age of 16, he was captured and carried to Ireland by pirates and sold to a local clan chief for labor. Six years later, he escaped to France where he was educated and institutionalized by Catholic clergymen. He was ordained a Catholic bishop at the age of 45. Two years later, Patrick became a missionary to Ireland. He taught the pagans Christianity. Also, he used the shamrock to teach the pagans the Holy Trinity. They could not understand the concept of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost existing as one being. So, St. Patrick used a shamrock to show the pagans that separate entities can exist as one like the shamrock's four clovers. The shamrock concept immortalized St. Patrick to Christians. He died in 493 A.D. on March 17—the day we look for four-leaf clovers, dress in green and drink green beer. Have a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day.

So, St. Patrick used a shamrock to show the pagans that separate entities can exist as one like the shamrock's four clovers. The shamrock concept immortalized St. Patrick to Christians. He died in 493 A.D. on March 17—the day we look for four-leaf clovers, dress in green and drink green beer. Have a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day.

Features Editor's note: Sources for this story were *The Cambridge Encyclopedia* and *The Catholic Archives*.



School of Fish Swim In Different Direction

by Brad Touché
entertainment editor

It's been almost three strange years since School Of Fish released a CD (So what if it's only been two years, the sentence sounds good). Even stranger, two "fish" have been yanked out of the pond and two more have moved in. Even stranger than that, a dog told them what to name their new CD. Strangest of all, guitarist Michael Ward likes this album better because his mom doesn't.

"My mom told me she liked the first album better which has me pretty stoked," said Ward.

The new CD, *Human Cannonball*, is a much more alternative sound for the band, which is fine with Ward.

"Surprisingly, I'm pretty happy with all of it," he admitted. "There are a few songs I'm still not sure about, but

on the whole, I like this one a lot more. It's not as glossy as the first album. It's got more of an edge."

"We were able to get harder with songs like 'Take Me Anywhere' and 'Complicator,'" he continued, "and we got better at expressing moods. Songs like 'Fountain' would have sounded completely different if it were written during the first album."

But Ward feels the move towards more of an alternative sound won't alienate the fans they already have.

"I don't see us as not being accessible because, just look at the mainstream. I mean, it's everything from Mariah Carey to Nirvana to almost some Sonic Youth. There have been a few bands who have pretty much shattered that category, and I don't see us as

See UPSTREAM, page 6



Chris MacDonald, Michael Ward, Chad Fischer and Josh Clayton-Felt are School of Fish.

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UPSTREAM, from page 1

some bizarre band that people won't understand. We just try to make it so your parents won't like it very much, which apparently we're having a little more success at doing."

Ward, along with lead singer Josh Clayton-Felt, have two new bandmates for this tour — bassist John Pierce and drummer Chad Fischer.

"In the picture is Josh Freese," Ward pointed out. "He's got his own band (Infectious Grooves), but he sat in for us on the album. We kind of parted ways with guys from the last album, but now we're hoping to stop this revolving door of musicians we seem to have. We just got back from a little four gig stint, and we're sounding good. I'm

excited about our show."

With a new video for "Take Me Anywhere" getting airplay on MTV's "120 Minutes," and the first leg of their tour underway, School Of Fish seem geared to pick up where they left off with their breakthrough single "Three Strange Days." But don't ever expect a straight answer from these guys if you ask them where they get their ideas.

"Where'd we get the title from?" echoed Ward. "The title came from a dream Josh's Golden Retriever had. He just barked out the letters in Morse code."

The new CD is a strong set of material filled with hard driving rhythms and hook-heavy melodies. It definitely belongs in any alternative music fan's collection.

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Amos & Andrew Shows Both Sides Are Right And Both Sides Are Wrong

by Brad Touche
entertainment editor

As of late, there have been many movies that attempted to deal with the racial problems facing our nation. Unfortunately, most either stick too uncompromisingly to one side of the issue or just simply fail to effectively convey the intended message.

Amos & Andrew, the new movie starring Nicolas Cage and Samuel L. Jackson, has set the standard by which all racially-focused films should be judged. If not only for its fairness, but for its method of conveying the message.

The movie is set on an exclusive resort island in New England, where millionaire Andrew Sterling (Jackson) has just bought a house. Nosy neighbors mistake the new homeowner for a burglar and call the police. Police Chief Cecil Tolliver (Dabney Coleman) rushes to the scene with his officers and surround the house. An over-anxious cop opens fire on Sterling as he tries to

shut off his car alarm, and the rest of the police join in the shoot-out of Sterling's new home.

After Tolliver realizes what he's done to his new resident, and it being an election year, he concocts this scheme to plant small-time criminal Amos Odell (Cage) in the house as the actual burglar.

You'll have to go see the movie to see what happens next, but I can promise it's never dull.

The most appealing facet of this film is its racial message, which is subtle enough to avoid being preachy, but blatant enough so that no one except the severely stupid can miss it. And what is the point? That both sides are right, and that both sides are wrong. The opposing sides pre-conceived notions about each other have become so skewed that it's getting more and more difficult to bridge the racial gap. The fight scene on the neighbors' lawn is priceless.

Cage and Jackson deliver their lines with precision and poise, especially



Samuel L. Jackson and Nicolas Cage star in *Amos & Andrew*

during that lawn scene. Their lines sum up the entire film and what is wrong with both races. Kudos to writer/director E. Max Frye for excellent direction and invaluable insight given to the script. This is a must-see movie.

Dabney Coleman is great, too. Except that his character is the same one we've seen him play a hundred times — you know, the self-centered, self-serving, dimmer than most eclipses-type bigot.

All in all, this movie could be the start of a trend that needs to be addressed if we're to bring America together. Love and tolerance, coupled with being able to laugh with each other, is what's needed. And this movie does it without a flaw. Five stars.

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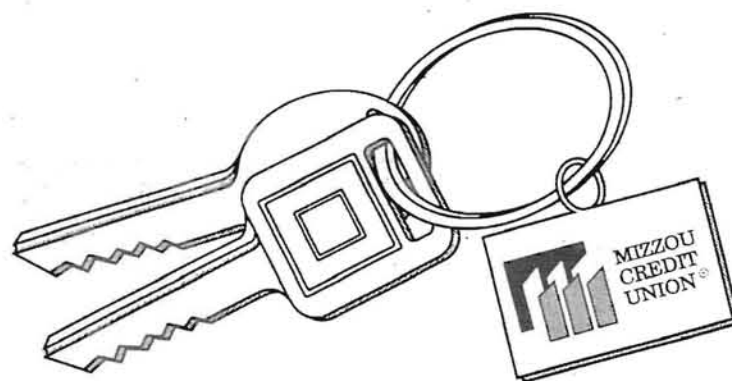
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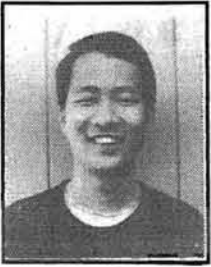
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Wang's World



Ways To Improve UM-St. Louis Athletics

by Jack C. Wang
sports editor

The company that makes Roloids is very profitable right now. Rich Meckfessel and Bobbi Morse are probably very familiar with the antacid product this year.

Meckfessel, the men's basketball coach, finished the 1992-93 campaign with a record of 11-15. Morse and her team finished with a record of 9-17.

The Rivermen pummeled like a falling star, losing all their games in February. The Riverwomen fared slightly better, winning one of nine games in February.

Both teams had a number of talented players. But what happened? What caused the breakdown? Only the coaches can answer that question.

I'm not writing to criticize either team. Both teams put all of their efforts into the season. If you don't believe me, just go and watch either team practice next year before and during the season. Meckfessel and Morse put their troops through a tough workout. During practice, you'll also see both coaches working hard to teach the team set plays and the basic fundamentals. So, critics and fans of the UM-St. Louis basketball can't say that either coach cannot coach.

What I am angry about is the fact that both teams could have done better. Okay, sure it's easy for me to say that because I'm only an observer, not a player. But the straight fact is that both coaches have their hands tied to a certain extent.

As some may know or for those that don't know, the budget for the athletic department at UM-St. Louis is limited.

At the same time, the university has enough money to expand the campus by adding two buildings—the library extension and the new computer building near SSB.

Certainly having two new buildings helps to increase campus visibility and attract new students. But shouldn't the University of Missouri system be able to dig up some money from the budget to improve the athletic facilities at UM-St. Louis?

The money to be increased might offer more scholarships to athletes and attract them to our campus. An increased number of scholarships would not only benefit the school, but also the athletes. They wouldn't have the financial worry hanging over their heads.

Improving the facilities at the Mark Twain building would also help greatly in terms of attracting highly sought after athletes in high school and the junior college. Having better facilities, such as a bigger basketball arena or larger stands for the soccer and baseball field, would be terrific. Room should also be found somewhere to build a softball field where the Riverwomen could play. Right now, the team plays at St. Ann Field, which is considered their 'home field.' Better facilities would also help the morale of athletes, who would know that they are playing in a world-class facility.

Overall, UM-St. Louis can't forget about the athletic department because sports are important to university life. It helps bring students together to events and having better facilities would attract more fans as well.

Rivermen End Season Of Frustration At 11-15

by Mike Hayes
sports reporter

As Missouri Western clung to a 91-83 lead in overtime with the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team on Feb. 24, the clock ticked down and the horn sounded, ending the game.

It was the final horn the Rivermen would hear this year as a season of frustration and disappointment had come to a close.

There were no more timeouts to be called or inbound plays to be drawn up. Each player knew as he walked off the court that night that there would be no tomorrow, and that there was nothing they could do about it. Every player and coach can sense when the end is near, but they're never really prepared for the sound of the final horn.

The Rivermen packed away their uniforms and high tops for the last time. They headed out to the bus where they were greeted by the bitter night air of winter and prepared for the long journey home.

As the team made their way across the snow-covered Missouri terrain from St. Joseph to St. Louis, the time of soul searching began.

Coaches and players alike retreated into their own world and wondered about the season that could have been.

A team that was riding the crest of a four-game winning streak and an 11-5 overall mark a little more than a month ago somehow fell apart. They set a school record with nine consecutive losses as they tumbled to the bottom ranks of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association



Photo: Alfie Ali

Rivermen (L to R) assistant coach Bill Walker, head coach Rich Meckfessel and assistant coach Chico Jones wondering what happened as the Rivermen finished in a nine-game slump.

(MIAA).

"I had a team that went 6-20 in West Virginia, and this season is twice as disappointing," said Rivermen head coach Rich Meckfessel after his team lost to Northwest Missouri State a game earlier.

Now Meckfessel and his squad are left only with the questions that run through their heads. Many of those questions, like many situations in life, will have no distinct answers.

Time will help in burying the pain of this season, but the disappointments and failures will inevitably creep into the minds of these players and coaches from time to time.

"Time has a way of taking care of things, but it will be a long time before this is forgotten," Meckfessel said.

The final horn not only ended a game and a season, but it also brought an end to the college basketball careers

of seniors Darren Hill, Steve Roder and Mike Moore, as they wore the UM-St. Louis uniform for the last time.

Moore can rest his tired bones and let them recover from the endless pounding they received as he took charge after charge during his career. The stoic Roder can look back with pride on his days at UM-St. Louis as he leaves in 15th place on the school's all time scoring list.

Forward Darren Hill was here for only one season, but what an impact he made. The 6-foot 4-inch, 185 pound, Chicago native, led the team, averaging 17.8 points and 7.8 rebounds. He was named MIAA player two weeks running during the month of January and was also recently named to the first team All-MIAA squad, as well as winning the newcomer-of-the-year

See B-BALL, page 8

Weather Causing Havoc To Start Of Rivermen Baseball Schedule

by Jack C. Wang
sports editor

Rivermen baseball coach Jim Brady probably hates Phil the Groundhog about now.

After the fiasco saw his shadow six more weeks of winter, surely enough, it came true to St. Louis.

Because of the recent snow and rain in St. Louis, the Rivermen have cancelled the first four games of the season. This includes the home opener, which was scheduled for March 2 against Missouri Baptist.

"The weather is a variable that we have no control over," Brady said. "This will force us to play a lot of games in March and April."

As for the groundhog, Brady says that experience with weather in the past has taught him a lesson.

"If the weather is nice in February, March is usually terrible," Brady said. "If January and February are cold, that usually means it will be a good spring."

We're a pawn of the weather, which dictates what you have to do, so we have to make the best of it."

Now, Brady and his team are hoping that the season will start on March 8.

"We're looking at the Northern State game for our opener," Brady said. "It will be under the lights and the weather will probably be cold. I don't know what the conditions down at Joplin will be. If the field is in good condition, we'll play."

Attempts are being made to make up the missed games.

Brady says that the Missouri Baptist game has been rescheduled for March 24.

But the delay of the start of the season could affect the players.

"It will be a lesson in character development to be mentally prepared," Brady said. "There will be a tendency to slack off if they're not strong individuals."

But Brady adds that the problem with the weather shouldn't be foreign to anyone playing baseball.

The problem with the weather also



Jim Brady

sets back the pitching rotation one week.

"I'd hoped to have the pitchers get a game or two under their belt," Brady said.

A different and more frustrating problem has risen for Brady and assistant coaches Gary Dunahue and Dennis Turner. Four newcomers to the pitching staff may be lost for the season due to injuries. What frustrates Brady the most about these injuries is how they occurred.

See BRADY, page 8

Roundball Table:

Head coach Bobbi Morse on the Riverwomen

by Cory Schroeder
associate sports editor

Head coach Bobbi Morse's thoughts on the 1992-93 season.

on the Riverwomen...

"The team worked hard, they never gave up. I was never disappointed with the effort."

on the Riverwomen's 9-16 record...

"We were just one player away from being a great team. We needed one scorer who could give us 12-15



Liz Squibb

See MORSE, page 7

Softball Riverwomen Open Season On Winning Note

by Pete Dicrispino
Current sports reporter

During spring break week most UM-St. Louis students probably relaxed by catching up on some much needed sleep.

This was not the case, however for the Riverwomen softball team who went to work, if you want to call heading down to Georgia and sunny Florida work.

It was time for the team to work out the rough spots and see what they need to improve on as the season began.

And after the first nine games the term inconsistency comes to mind.

"We're hitting and pitching well, but a few untimely errors have hurt us," head coach Harold Brumbaugh said.

With a record of 5-4 and three games left on the trip, the Riverwomen have showed signs that a great season is in reach. "If we can get the communication and timing down in the field, we should be a force to be reckoned with," Brumbaugh said.

The Riverwomen could easily be 9-0 on the trip with the way they have played so far, but with many new players getting to know each other and with Brumbaugh juggling people in and out of the lineup to find the right mix, finding consistency could take some time.

"We need to get everyone knowing where the other person is going to be," Brumbaugh said. "It should take about five or six more games to get it down."

In the Georgia tournament the team finished second, falling to Valdosta State 4-2 in the Championship game. "We played well in Georgia, but we hit too many balls right at people," Brumbaugh said.

All three pitchers pitched well in Georgia with Colleen Duffin throwing a 4-hit shutout against Grand Valley. Jill Stockdale and Kelly Childs also picked up victories in Georgia.

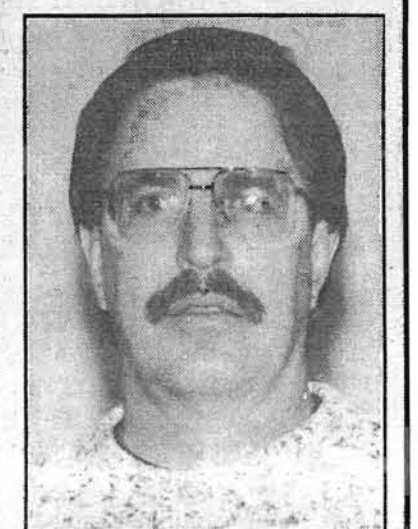


Photo: Dave Floyd

Softball head coach Harold Brumbaugh is pleased with the team's record thus far.

In Florida, the Riverwomen gained victories against Keene State 6-3 and Aquinas University 6-3, while losing to Edinboro 7-3 and Grand Valley 1-0.

So the question remains has coach Brumbaugh settled on a lineup. "I have an idea on what it will be for the conference games, but for right now I want everyone to keep working," Brumbaugh said. "Everyone is going to play."

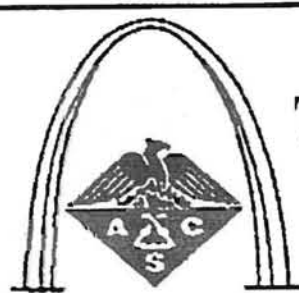
So with the remaining games on the trip what would Brumbaugh like his team to accomplish?

"I want to get respect from everyone in our conference," Brumbaugh said. "We should be one of the top three teams in our conference."

Only time will tell, but so far with a little work here and there, postseason play could be in the Riverwomen's future. "This is the best team I have had," Brumbaugh said.

Three is not a crowd. This is the first year in a long time that the Riverwomen have had three pitchers and it could end up being a plus. With many doubleheaders the girls' arms might not be so tired at the end

See TRIP, page 8



The American Chemical Society Presents : A Seminar about Aids

The General Topics Group of the St. Louis Section
of the American Chemical Society presents

"Perspectives on Aids: Scientific, Social, Sexual and the Future."

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by Dr. William Welsh of the Chemistry Department on
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TRIP from page 7

of the year.

Here's the pitching records thus far. Colleen Duffin (2-0), Jill Stockdale (1-3), and Kelly Childs (2-1). "They have all pitched well," Brumbaugh said.

MVP of Spring Trip. Early votes go out to outfielder-pitcher Colleen Duffin. Not only is she 2-0 with a shutout, she has also been the team's best offensive weapon. "She's the best ballplayer to come through UM-St. Louis," Brumbaugh said. "She's consistent, a great outfielder, and hustles all the time."

Hitting the Beach. What does one do in Florida when the games are over? What else besides hit the beach! If you happen to see some gals around campus this week with killer tans don't be jealous, just remember that they had to play 12 games in a week and drove 18 hours back and forth while we were home sleeping.

BRADY from page 7

"All of the injuries are from non-baseball injuries," Brady said.

Lefthander Dave Chapin is getting ready to undergo reconstructive surgery after getting injured from a skiing accident. Two righthanders, Chuck Shaffer and Trevor Wolfe, are also injured. Shaffer was a victim of the recent snow, suffering a popped shoulder after shoveling.

"Chuck was throwing the ball extremely well before the injury," Brady said. "But now he's out indefinitely."

Wolfe sustained a shoulder injury as well, but his was the result of moving gymnastic equipment from the recent Coca-Cola gymnastic meet held at Mark Twain.

"We were counting on him in middle relief," Brady said. "He will be out three weeks. He will undergo rest and rehabilitation and looks to be a question mark right now."

But the biggest blow may have come in the closer role. Right-hander

Chris Dumm, the leading candidate, appears to be academically ineligible after having transcript problems from Reid Lake Community College. "We don't know about Chris right now," Brady said. "But it will be a tremendous blow if we lose him."

Meanwhile, center fielder Donnie Jolliff is slowly on the mend from off-seasons knee surgery. "He appears to be ready to make an appearance next week," Brady said. "He's at 85 percent."

Brady is concerned. "This changes the way we do things," Brady said. "I hope that people can pick up the slack, because the people we lost were being heavily counted on. Lady luck has certainly not smiled upon us."

"I don't know who will take over the closer role," Brady said. "Maybe we'll have a bullpen by committee." Brady mentions junior right-hander Greg Shepherd as a possibility for the closer role.

MORSE from page 7



Danielle LaMette

points night in and night out to complement Liz (Squibb) on freshman guard Regina Howard's future... "She's going to be a comparable



Nancy Hesemann

player to Gina Blanks after four years." Blanks, a senior at Central Missouri State, averaged 15.7 points per game. on sophomore center Connie Gillam's future...



Connie Gillam

"She's going to be a big time player in this league. We will need her, Rhonda (Patterson), and Amy (Huber) to pick up the slack with Liz (Squibb) graduating."

B-BALL from page 7

basketball program rests with freshman guard Lawndale Thomas, who was named to the MIAA All-Freshman Team. Thomas averaged 5.6 points and 2.3 rebounds and finished second

on the team with 59 assists and fifth with 20 steals.

But, now the lights have been dimmed, the balls are put away, and the court is empty as the healing process takes over.

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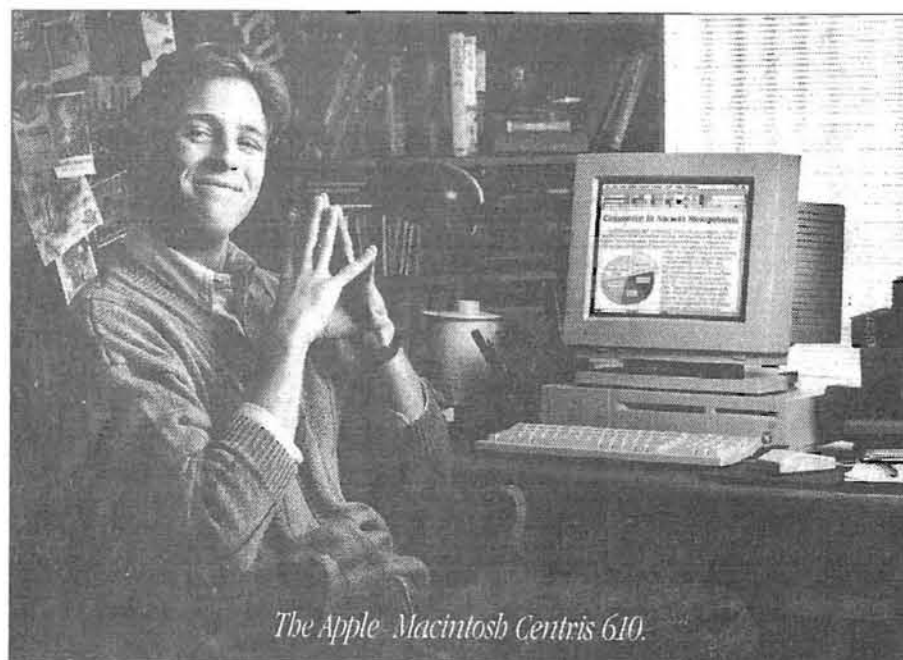
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